the work; he is to be in charge of the Hospital without prejudice to his own duties.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I think this will not become a claim for his promotion at a future date?

President.—That we cannot say. Does that question arise?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the appointment be considered a precedent in filling up a permanent vacancy?

President.—We cannot commit ourselves to anything like that in the matter of making appointments. When the time comes for making appointments, we take all the relevant circumstances into consideration. A vacancy may arise two years hence, and for that we cannot bind any one with any ruling of ours. The Government must be given ample discretion to act in the best way they like in the matter of making appointments.

The volunteers in the Trichur Hospital.

38. **Dr. A. G. Menon.**—With reference to answer given to question 12 (b) of the budget session, will the Government be pleased to state from what date to what date Messrs. K. C. Rappai and V. K. Govinda Menon were working as volunteers?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Mr. K. C. Rappai from 1—11—1099 to 14—6—1101.

Mr. V.K.Govinda Menon from 25—8—1100 to 16—4—1101.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—In answer to a supplementary question I put, it was given out that the questions and answers were supplied to officials beforehand.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—Questions and answers were supplied to the official members a day previous, so as to enable them to get ready the answers for the supplementary questions likely to be put by the members.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I beg to bring to your notice that it is not according to the rules, since questions and answers are to be supplied only an hour before the commencement of the meeting to all the members alike.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—They were not supplied with questions and answers as official members of this Council, but in their capacity of Heads of Departments.

President.—Was this answer before you when that answer was prepared?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—No, Sir.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—Suppose I have to answer certain questions to-morrow. In order that I may be ready with the answers to supplementary questions, I may be supplied with a copy of the questions and answers.

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President.—We are not here to discuss the correctness of your statement. What we want is a correct answer.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—I do not know what the practice now is.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—You change your practice from day to day.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I call the attention of the Government to put a stop to that practice.

President.—The draft answer is furnished to the Government by the Heads of Departments, and we examine them, and if they are all right, according to the view of the Government, those answers are passed. But if we think that certain modifications are necessary, we make the necessary modifications, and the Heads of Departments are entitled to know the modifications that are effected in their answers.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—We grant it, Sir. You can send that modification to that Head of Department, instead of supplying him with the printed questions and answers.

President.—It means the same thing. There is no material difference.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—If you send the printed questions and answers as it is to the Head of a Department, it will contain not only his departmental questions but also questions concerning other departments.

President.—He is not concerned with the answers of other departments.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—It is possible that, when we circulate the printed matter, some of us get an advantage which others may not get.

President.—Till they are published, they are kept confidential. It is only fair that the Heads of Departments should know what modifications have been effected in the answers supplied by them.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Council rules do not permit that.

President.—Is there anything in the rules against that?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—The questions and answers are placed on the Council table just before an hour to the question time. The rules do not say that it should be given to the members earlier.

President.—So you say that, wherever any modification is suggested, that may be communicated to the members concerned at once, so that they can know what all modifications have been made in their draft answers. Printed lists need not be sent——is that not?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—That may be done.

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President.—So far as questions and answers are concerned, all the members may be placed on the same footing. Of course, there are many stages in the process of approving the answers, and probably, after the final approval, there may not be a very long time to communicate the answers to the Heads of Departments. That is one difficulty.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—This is throwing unnecessary work on the Secretariat. I do not know how non-official members are prejudiced by the present procedure. (*Hear, hear.*) They, official members, are responsible for giving the answers. We are not prejudiced by their being supplied with the questions and answers a day previous.

A list of Lady Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the State.

39. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a list containing the number and names of lady Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the State, where they are all at present stationed, and the work they attend to?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—A list containing the information required is appended. (*Vide Appendix II.*)

The appointment of a Lady Doctor in Kunnamkulam.

40. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether petitions and representations have not been received by the Government from the ladies of Kunnamkulam for appointing a lady doctor at Kunnamkulam;

(b) whether the Government has not replied that a lady doctor would be appointed from a particular time; and if so,

(c) whether a copy of that communication will be placed on the table;

(d) whether a lady doctor was appointed there from the time mentioned in the communication; and if the answer is in the negative;

(e) the reason for not appointing a lady doctor from that time;

(f) whether the Government did not receive petitions or representations after the promised time for appointing a lady doctor; and if so,

(g) what reply has been given?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—(a) Yes.

(b) The Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer had replied that the request of the Y. W. C. A. would be considered when

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